

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8452

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN) PEPR, GR, US
SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
COOPERATION

REF: ATHENS 8378

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MET YESTERDAY WITH DR. GEORGE ARGYROPOULOS, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE COORDINATION MINISTRY'S SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (YEET) TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON BROADENING OUR BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AREA. ARGYROPOULOS INFORMED US THAT COORDINATION DEPUTY MINISTER DIMAS HAS REQUESTED THAT ALL AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT SUBMIT THEIR SUGGESTIONS TO HIM BY OCTOBER 10. ARGYROPOULOS SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO SEND US A CARBON COPY OF HIS AGENCY'S SUBMISSION TO DIMAS BY THE END OF THIS WEEK AND SINCE YEET HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING AND COORDINATING ALL GOG SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS HE SUSPECTED HIS PROPOSALS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE GOG'S OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO US PRETTY MUCH AS HE SUBMITTED THEM.

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2. DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING SEVERAL REFERENCES BY ARGYROPOULOS AND HIS ASSOCIATES TO AN "AGREEMENT" ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION FORCED SOME DISCUSSION OF THE MODALITIES OF COOPERATION. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR SAID THAT WHILE SPECIFICS HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED ON IN WASHINGTON, OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING LEANED TOWARD THE CREATION OF JOINT WORKING GROUPS WHOSE

ESTABLISHMENT WOULD BE REFLECTED IN ANY JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT. IN VIEW OF THE TIME CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE VISIT, PERHAPS A REALISTIC TARGET WOULD BE MUTUAL AGREEMENT, EXPRESSED IN THE JOINT STATEMENT, TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUPS IN AGREED FIELDS, E.G., SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, ETC., LEAVING THE ELABORATION OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION TO BE DETERMINED BY THE EXPERTS THEMSELVES DURING THE INITIAL MEETINGS OF THE GROUPS. ARGYROPOULOS APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE CONCEPT AND VOLUNTEERED THE NOTION THAT THE JOINT STATEMENT MIGHT ALSO MAKE REFERENCE TO THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT BETWEEN YEET AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND THE SOON-TO-BE-SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH THE US NUCLEAR REGULATORY AGENCY AS TANGIBLE EXAMPLES OF THE KIND OF COOPERATION ENVISAGED. ARGYROPOULOS ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT UNDERSTANDING WITHIN THE GOG ON EXACTLY HOW WE VIEWED INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXPANDED COOPERATION IN THE NON-POLITICAL/SECURITY AREAS WAS VAGUE AND APPEARED TO DIFFER FROM MINISTRY TO MINISTRY.

3. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS ENCOURAGING TO HEAR, EVEN IF INDIRECTLY, THAT THE GOG BUREAUCRACY HAS BEGUN TO DRAFT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, IT IS UNFORTUNATE, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY UNAVOIDABLE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING HERE, THAT WE WILL PROBABLY NOT RECEIVE A COORDINATED GOG RESPONSE IN THE NON-POLITICAL/SECURITY AREAS MUCH BEFORE OCTOBER 10.
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MOREOVER, THE EVIDENT UNCERTAINTY WITHIN THE GOG ON THE POSSIBLE MODALITIES OF OUR BILATERAL COOPERATION WOULD SEEM TO MAKE ALL THE MORE URGENT THE NEED TO SUBMIT OUR THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
MCCLOSKEY

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